

## Technology

# Army zooms in on FOCUS

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After a nearly five-week delay, the Army's simulation-training agency in Orlando is on target to award its biggest contract yet sometime this week, military officials said Friday.

The announcement could come as early as Tuesday, according to the Army Program Executive Office for Simulation, Training & Instrumentation.

General Dynamics Corp. and Raytheon Co. lead rival teams competing to land the Warfighter FOCUS (short for Field Operations Customer Support). The deal could be worth more than \$11 billion

over the next decade.

The winner will provide technical and operational support for most of the Army's training simulators worldwide, military officials said. The work involves basic maintenance, technology upgrades and other services for live-action and computer-based training exercises.

The deal consolidates three existing contracts that expire later this year, involving live, computer-based and constructive war-game training.

Army officials expected to announce the winner in late April, but a death in the training agency's program organization pushed the target date to June.

Despite the size of the contract, it may not create a bonanza of new jobs in Central Florida. Most of the work is done at individual Army installations across the country and abroad. Still, industry experts expect some technical, program management and administrative work will be performed in Orlando. The companies have not discussed their plans or commented on the competition.

## Medical focus

Army researchers at PEO-STRI demonstrated the latest in medical-helicopter training technology last month at a national conference in Atlanta.

The Army simulation

agency showcased a helicopter simulator that provides flight and medical training for combat medic teams. The event was the Army Aviation Association of America's annual convention.

Dubbed the Aviation Combined Arms Tactical Trainer, or AVCATT, the new simulator can provide flight training for a variety of aircraft including the Apache, Chinook and Blackhawk helicopters.

Army officials said it is a critical training system for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

"AVCATT simulators are especially important at this time, because they train pilots as a team in simulated combat conditions," said Maj.

Phillip E. Smallwood, assistant product manager.

About 5,000 Army helicopter pilots have used the new simulator, which can provide mission training for 150 pilots simultaneously, he said. The Army has fielded 12 of the nearly two-dozen simulators that have been built.

PEO-STRI also exhibited other advances in military medical training, including a patient system that simulates extremity bleeding, collapsed lungs and a blocked airway — which the Army says are the three most preventable causes of combat death.

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